

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05847 241433Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 /030 W

-----242045Z 022222 /65

R 231618Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1301

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

UNCLAS LAGOS 05847

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP, BTRA, NI

SUBJ: LAGOS INT'L TRADE FAIR: CRUISE SHIP ACCOMMODATIONS

1. ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY VISITOR, A GREEK SHIPPING LINE PLANS TO USE ONE OF ITS CRUISE SHIPS AS A HOTEL FOR PARTICIPANTS IN LAGOS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR NOV. 27- DEC. 12. PROPOSAL INTERESTING ENOUGH TO WARRANT CHECKING AND, IF CONFIRMED, DISSEMINATION TO TRADE FAIR PARTICIPANTS.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED LETTER AND VISIT FROM MR. C.D. MAURICE, 25 THIRNBULL ROAD, IKOYI, LAGOS, ANNOUNCING INTENTION OF HIS EMPLOYER, ULYSSES SHIPPING AGENCY LTD., 1, MAKRAS STOAS-PIRAEUS, ATHENS, GREECE, TO CHARTER A 700 OR 1000-PASSENGER CRUISE SHIP FROM N.G. VLASSOPULOS, BEVIS MAEKS HOUSE E.C. 3A LONDON, TO SERVE AS FLOATING HOTEL FOR LAGOS TRADE FAIR. ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE AVAILABLE NOV. 10 - DEC. 20. SHIP WOULD BE TIED UP SOMEWHERE ALONG LAGOS MARINA, OFF BUSINESS DISTRICT, AND WOULD BE AVAILABLE ONLY TO TRADE FAIR PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR GUESTS. ALL SHIP FACILITIES WOULD BE IN USE, I.E., CINEMA, RESTAURANTS, BARS, MUSIC, DANCING, POOL

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05847 241433Z

AND BANK. PRICE OF NAIRA 65 OR DOLS 100 PER DAY PER PERSON INCLUDES BREAKFAST, DINNER AND DRINKS, TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM FAIR GROUNDS 11-12 MILES WEST AND, IF ARRANGEMENTS CONCLUDED, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY. IF ALL THIS IN FACT AVAILABLE, PRICE IS COMPARABLE GOING RATES LEADING LAGOS HOTELS, ALL OF WHICH FURTHER FROM FAIR GROUNDS. CABINS RANGE FROM TWO TO FOUR BEDS, ALL SAME PRICE PER PERSON.

POSSIBILITY OF CRUISING TO ATHENS AFTER FAIR.

3. MAURICE CLAIMS TO HAVE SIGNED UP 150 JAPANESE AND 130 FRENCH CLIENTS. HE ASKS THAT COMPANIES OR INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED RESERVE BY CABLE OR LETTER TO HIM AT LAGOS ADDRESS OR C/O VLASSOPULOS, LONDON ADDRESS. LATER HE WILL REQUEST DEPOSITS. DESIRES PAYMENT IN CONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES, NOT RPT NOT NIGERIAN NAIRA. COULD NOT DETERMINE WHETHER SHIP WILL BE CANCELLED IF INSUFFICIENT INTEREST BUT MAURICE CLAIMS HE PLANS HAVE A HOTEL SHIP HERE PERMANENTLY EVENTUALLY, AT OLD CUSTOMS WHARF.

4. COMMENT: SINCE LAGOS HOTEL SPACE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT RESERVE FROM ABROAD AT ANY TIME, HOTEL SHIP PLAN IS ATTRACTIVE AND SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION POTENTIAL FAIR PARTICIPANTS IF LEGITIMATE. MAURICE SHOWED LETTERS FROM NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES GRANTING PERMISSION FOR VENTURE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ATHENS ATTEMPTING CONFIRM THAT MAURICE IS ULYSSES AGENT AND ULYSSES IN FACT HAS ABOVE PLANS.

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